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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in the Area of the First GSS Mecz Army

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 18 August 1955

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REFERENCES PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 1 and 29 July 1955, The Nachrichtenschule (1521) in Koenigsbrueck was occupied by approximately 400 soldiers, who wore red-bordered black armbands, and at least 50 tanks including about two thirds T-34 and one third JS tanks. 5 to 8 tanks repeatedly left from and returned to the installation.¹
2. In early July, increased combat activity of artillery and infantry units was observed in Neues Lager and the adjoining training area.
3. The following details were observed:
During the night of 30 June/1 July, little noise of artillery; continual noise of battle of infantry units.
Between about 2200 and 2220 on 2 July, heavy noise of battle of all kinds of weapons; subsequently all was quiet.
On 5 and 6 July, reports of medium artillery pieces throughout the day.
On 8 July, artillery firing continued, with additional employment of rocket launchers.
During the night of 10/11 July, firing of artillery pieces of all calibers.
On 13 July, artillery firing throughout the day.
Between 16 and 20 July, steady artillery firing throughout the day, with one round fired every 5 to 8 minutes. Only a few reports were heard at night.
Between 20 and 29 July, continuous noise of battle of artillery and infantry, on several days increased by rocket launchers and tanks.²
4. On 1 July, 6 entrained radio trucks were seen at the Koenigsbrueck railroad station.
5. During the night of 1/2 July, 30 to 35 tanks reportedly arrived in Koenigsbrueck by rail from the direction of Dresden and subsequently left toward the training area.³
6. On 22 July, a troop train carrying about 50 cars, with an undetermined number of trucks and others of the A 6-34-mm and A 9-36-mm series, armored scout cars and 37-mm and 76-mm AA guns left the Koenigsbrueck railroad station toward Dresden.⁴

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8. [redacted] exercises which expanded beyond the area of the [redacted] [redacted] were reportedly held during the month of July. Tanks caused damage to roads, buildings and trees in Boxdorf and Wilschdorf. ²

9. Between 9 and 16 July, the barracks installation in Uebigau (1307) near Dresden was again occupied to capacity. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black collar patches with artillery insignia and blue-bordered black collar patches with bridge-building engineer insignia were observed.

10. After 14 July, occupation of the Strassburg Kaserne (1402) in Grimma appeared to have increased by some 200 soldiers. At 1600 on 14 July, 18 six-wheel armed personnel carriers, each commanded by 1 officer and 17 soldiers, and 18 six-wheel armed personnel carriers commanded by drivers exclusively,

At about 1730, the column entered the Strassburg Kaserne and was welcomed by a military band. 7 25X1

11. Prior to 16 July, The Elsner Kaserne (1401) in Grimma was occupied by some 250 soldiers. 8 25X1

12. Trucks seen in Grimma

1. Comment. Weapons observed confirm at the post the bulk of presumably the 44th Gds Tank Regt of the 11th Gds Tank Div. 25X1

2. Comment. Firing practices and exercises agree with the present phase of training. It is, however, doubted that the exercises extended as far as the Boxdorf-Wilschdorf area, just north of Dresden. No confirmatory information has been received so far. It is possible that the tanks belonged to the Hv Tank SP Regt of the 11th Gds Tank Div, believed to be stationed in Dresden.

3. Comment. Since no types of tanks were reported, it cannot be determined whether the shipment involved elements of the 45th Gds Tank Regt, believed to be stationed in the installation in Meissen-Bohnitsch (1602), or the 7th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 11th Gds Tank Div. carried in Dresden. The signal vehicles cannot be identified.

4. Comment. Weapons observed during the loading in Koenigsbrueck on 22 July tend to indicate that units of the First Gds Mecz Army, presumably of the 11th Gds Tank Div. from Dresden were concerned.

5. Comment. The motor vehicles seen at the Koenigsbrueck railroad station belonged to the First Gds Mecz Army.

6. Comment. The soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, who were observed in the Uebigau Kaserne near Dresden, cannot be identified. The personnel with engineer insignia and the heavy occupation of the installation tend to indicate that the w/i Engr Regt of the First Gds Mecs Army, as well as the 134th Gds Engr Bn of the 11th Gds Tank Div, were again present at the installation after early July

7. Comment. These were primary elements of the 21st Gas Mox Regt. at the 21st Gas Mox Regt., which returned to their permanent quarters. All motor vehicle

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7. Comment. These were probably elements of the 21st Gds Mecz ~~Div~~ ~~8th~~ 8th Gds Mecz Div, which returned to their permanent quarters.

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8. Comment. The information indicates that all components of the 155 th Gds Sig Bn of the 8th Gds Mecz Div were at the installation, while elements of the 133rd Gds Engr Bn were still absent.

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